

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-2069

Magi No.

DOE _____ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Masque Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2625 Masque Farm Road

city, town Annapolis vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
district	public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	agriculture museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial park
structure	both	work in progress	educational private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment religious
object	in process	yes: restricted	government scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial transportation
	not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	military other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Katherine Properties LLC

street & number 496 Ferry Point Road telephone no.:

city, town Annapolis state and zip code: Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date _____ federal _____ state _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

AA-2069

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Masque Farm is located within Annapolis City limits, on the south side of Masque Farm Road. The farm consists of 86.94 acres upon which stands a heavily modernized 19th century dwelling with 20th century addition. Outbuildings include a badly dilapidated chicken house, a ruinous tenant house and a 20th century grain silo. Most outbuildings were razed in the 1960s.

The farm house is large, containing approximately 3,500 sq. feet and features at least three episodes of construction. At the core is a mid-to-late 19th century I-house with two-story ell. Projecting from the west of the I-house is a 1932 two-story, addition that is now the building's front. The classically-inspired front façade is distinguished by its large, pedimented cross gable. Other embellishments include pilasters and a trabeated door surround. The symmetry of the four bay front façade is interrupted by an off-center front doorway.

The historic core of this building is obscured by a series of modern accretions. The attic yields little information as to the building's evolution as most joists and rafters are sheathed with plywood. The few exposed members of the building's core display circular saw marks and wire nails. This may indicate a total rebuild of the roof when the house was expanded in the 1930s. The house was originally sheathed with german siding, but the entire mass is now covered in vinyl siding. According to tradition, the foundation of the original building (now the kitchen) was built in 1859. This claim appears specious as the brick foundation under the kitchen looks contemporary with the majority of the house.

The house underwent extensive renovations in the fall of 1998 and retains very little historic material. Excepting some doors and a 1920s upstairs mantle, all original finish, including plaster walls, have been removed. Hardwood floors dating to the 1930s expansion and renovation remain. They were sanded and stained in 1998.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-2069

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates	Builder/Architect						
Check: Applicable Criteria:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D			
and/or							
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local				

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Reportedly Masque farm derives its name from an vernacular English phrase meaning "to hell with it". While the land associated with Masque Farm has been occupied since 1673, the current farm house was constructed in the late 19th century and expanded to its current configuration in 1937.

An unpublished history of the farm was written in 1984 and is located in the site files of the Historic Preservation Planning Section of Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Code Enforcement. It suggests that the original farmhouse was erected about 1856, the year William Williams and Martha Murdoch were married. A house is shown in this location on Martenent's 1860 and Hopkin's 1878 atlas. Visible physical evidence does not support such an early date.

It is more likely that the I-house and ell portion was built by J.H. Vansant after his purchase of the property in 1889, or alternatively, after the property's purchase by Frederick Stehle in 1910. According to the unpublished history, Stehle made improvements to the house and farm. In 1913 he defaulted on the mortgage and the farm was purchased by his brother who allowed Frederick Stehle to remain on the farm as a tenant. Frederick Stehle subsequently purchased the farm back from his brother, but lost it again during the Great Depression.

The farm was purchased in 1937 by Admn. Robert "Ike" Giffen. Giffen expanded the house to its present configuration. Giffen, Director of Athletics and the U.S. Naval Academy, operated the farm recreationally and upon his retirement devoted his full attention to agriculture. In 1976 Giffen turned the property into a Christmas tree farm. The property is owned by Giffen's heirs who continue to operate the Christmas tree farm and use the house as an office for the family business.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-2069

- 1) unpublished history of Masque Farm. Located in site file AA-2069 at Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Code Enforcement, Historic Preservation Planning Section.

Washington Post article. July 11, 1949

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 86.94 acres

Quadrangle name South River

Quadrangle scale 1:24:000

UTM References Do NOT complete UTM references

A 

B

Zone Easting Northing

[illegible]

D | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | | |

F

G

H [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Verbal boundary description and justification

legal boundary as shown on Anne Arundel County tax map 51, block 22 parcel 0202

list all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Sherri M. Marsh
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organization Anne Arundel County Historical Sites Survey date October 1998

street & number 2664 Riva Road telephone (410) 222-7441

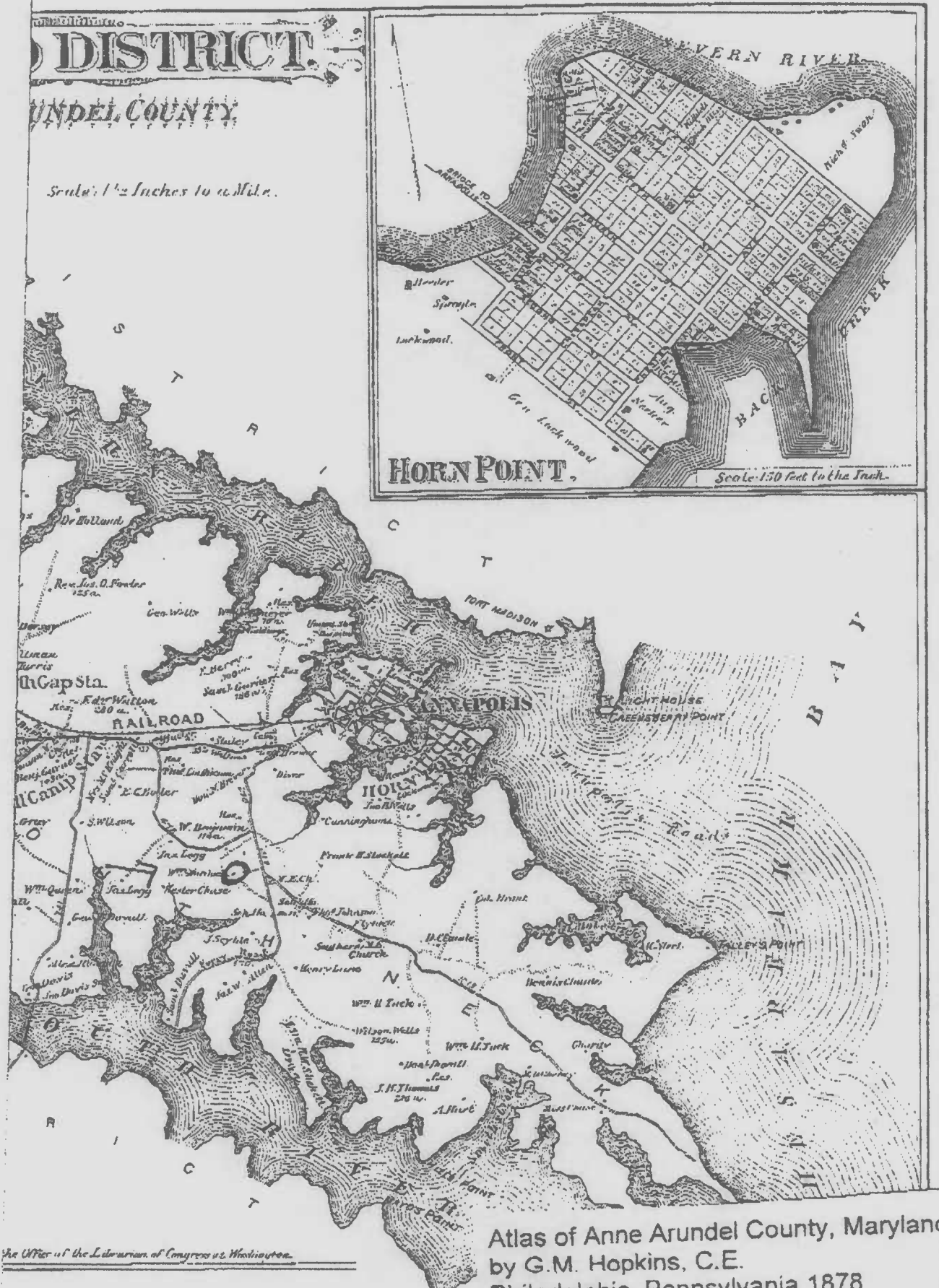
city or town Annapolis state Maryland

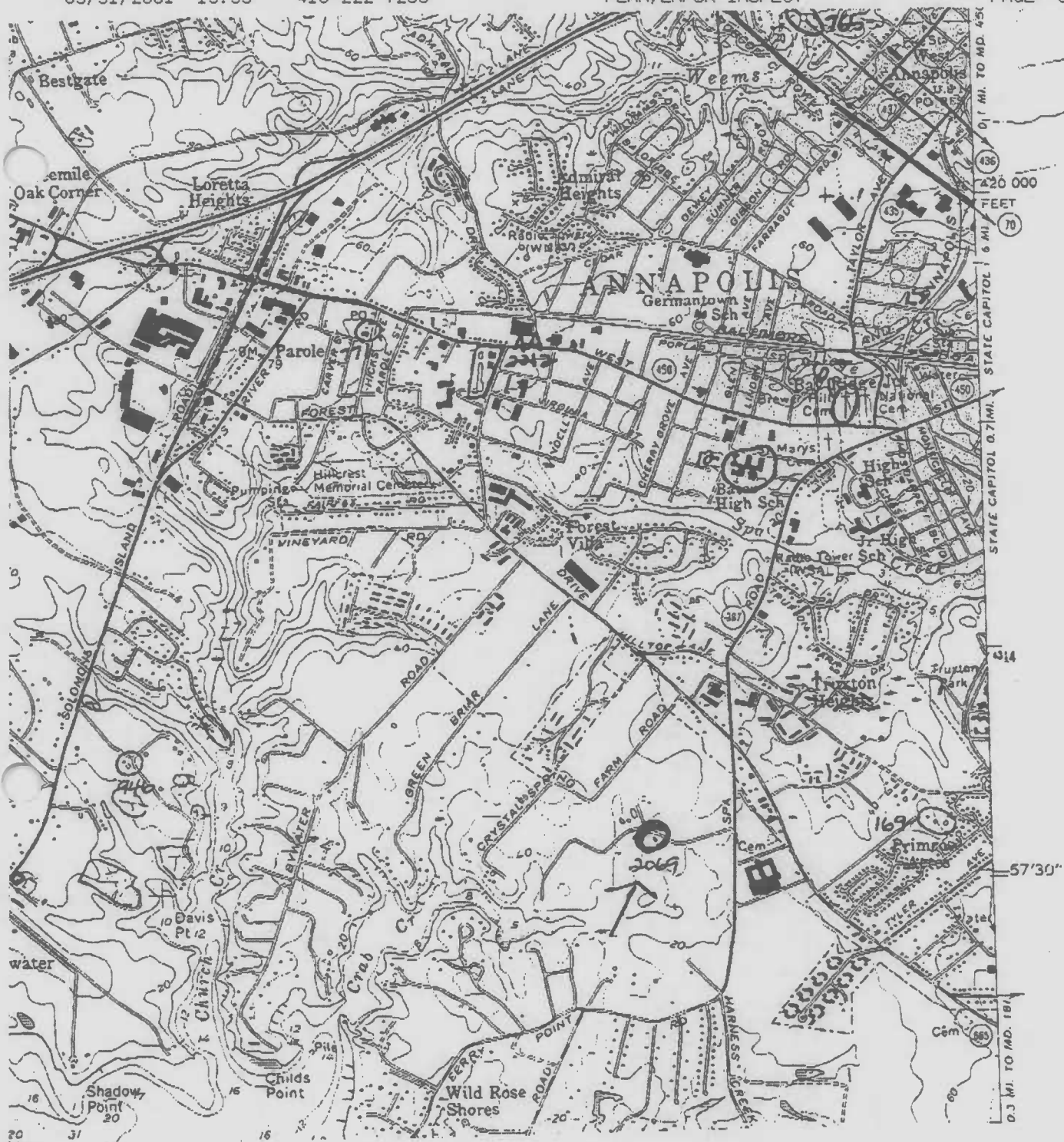
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

AA-2069





South River
 USGS 7.5 minutes series
 Scale 1:24,000
 1957, photo revised 1978

Site Number: AA-2069
 Site Name: Masque Farm
 Location: Masque Farm Rd.
 Annapolis, MD